

Eileen Stommes, Deputy Administrator
AMS, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Room 4007-S, Ag Stop 0275
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Ms. Stommes:

Re: National Organic Program Proposed
Docket #TMD-94-00-2

GENERAL COMMENT: This letter is to register my protest against the USDA's lowering of standards for organic agriculture. Organic standards should be raised, not lowered. Food safety is important to me and I ask that the USDA withdraw this proposal completely. Any national standards should be written in concert with organic farmers, not by Agribusiness lobbyists or staff at the EPA, FDA or USDA. Stronger standards should be consistent with true organic principles. This is MY FOOD SUPPLY that you are dealing with in this proposal!

Although the entire document is riddled with inconsistencies and non-organic inclusions, I want to make special note of protest against irradiation (section 205.17), genetic engineering (section 205.8), use of sewer sludge (section 205.22), and orders of preference (section 205.16). Since the first three items are problematic even in conventional agriculture, it is untenable and absurd that they be included in the much more conservative organic agriculture. As to the orders of preference, such open choice by food producers as to what they may apply to their fields opens up organic agriculture to misuse by Agribusiness farms.

I also wish to register disapproval of the way comments are being handled. The USDA should make note that general comments by the non-farming public should weigh heavily in as much as it is the safety of OUR food supply that is in question.

Sincerely,

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